

In the Claims

1. A floor cleaning apparatus, comprising:
 - a nozzle assembly including a base section and an agitator section pivotally mounted to said base section;
 - a canister assembly pivotally connected to said nozzle assembly;
 - a suction generator carried by one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly; and
 - a dirt collector carried by one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said agitator section includes an agitator housing and a first rotary agitator.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said agitator section also includes a second rotary agitator.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 including more than two agitators.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first rotary agitator includes a longitudinal axis and said agitator section pivots relative to said base section along said longitudinal axis.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base section of said nozzle assembly includes at least one ground engaging wheel.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said canister assembly includes at least one ground engaging wheel.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said agitator section of said nozzle assembly includes at least one wheel.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said at least one wheel of said agitator section is provided adjacent a leading edge of said agitator section.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said canister assembly includes a control handle, said canister assembly being pivotally displaceable relative to said nozzle assembly between an upright, storage position and a use position.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further including means for biasing said agitator section toward said surface being cleaned.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, further including at least one spring for biasing said agitator section toward said surface being cleaned.

13. The apparatus of claim 2, further including means for transmitting power from said suction generator to said first rotary agitator.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means includes a belt.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means includes a gear box assembly.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an agitator drive motor carried on said nozzle assembly.

17. A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a main housing including a plurality of wheels for engaging and rolling over a surface to be cleaned;
a suction generator; and
an agitator section pivotally mounted to said main housing.

5

18. The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, further including means for biasing said agitator section toward the surface to be cleaned.

19. The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, wherein said agitator section includes an agitator housing and a first rotary agitator.

20. The vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said agitator section also includes a second rotary agitator.

21. The vacuum cleaner of claim 20, wherein said first rotary agitator includes a longitudinal axis and said agitator section pivots relative to said main housing along said longitudinal axis.

22. The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, wherein said agitator section includes an agitator housing and a first rotary agitator.

23. The vacuum cleaner of claim 22, wherein said agitator section also includes a second rotary agitator.

24. The vacuum cleaner of claim 23, wherein said first rotary agitator includes a longitudinal axis and said agitator section pivots relative to said main housing along said longitudinal axis.

25. The vacuum cleaner of claim 19, further including a pair of brackets for pivotally mounting said agitator section to said main housing.

26. The vacuum cleaner of claim 25, wherein each bracket of said pair of brackets includes an aperture for receiving an end of said first rotary agitator.

27. The vacuum cleaner of claim 26, wherein each bracket of said pair of brackets includes at least one lug and one fastener for securing each bracket to said main housing.

28. A method of improving cleaning efficiency of a vacuum cleaner, comprising:

providing the vacuum cleaner with a nozzle assembly including a base section and an agitator section; and

5 pivotally mounting said agitator section to said base section.

29. The method of claim 28 including providing the vacuum cleaner with a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said base section.